

- 34 -

**SHOCK-ABSORBER UNITS FOR USE IN A VACUUM CHAMBER FOR
BRAKING RUNAWAY MOVING OBJECTS**

5

Abstract of the Disclosure

Shock-absorber units are disclosed that are especially suitable for use in a vacuum environment. Suitability is manifest by, in the event of damage to or malfunction of the shock-absorber units, their not degrading the vacuum level or contaminating the chamber in which the vacuum is established. An embodiment of a shock-absorber unit is mounted to the inside surface of a wall of the chamber and includes a hydraulic or gas cylinder that is sealed from the chamber by a sheath (*e.g.*, a bellows and/or sealing base). For example, the shock-absorber units are effective for braking the momentum of a runaway stage or other massive, moving object in the chamber.